

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries, and popular story papers.

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DIAMOND DICK, JR., THE BOYS BEST WEEKLY.

By Homer H. Kurtz.

"The most unique and fascinating tales of western romance." How many times--when a boy, I read the above words on a back cover of an issue of Diamond Dick, Jr., and wished that I had the necessary wherewith to buy all the back numbers that were generally listed below those words ! If I remember rightly, Street & Smith also claimed that nearly all the Diamond Dick tales were founded on facts and incidents, that had actually happened over the world, and especially in the wild and woolly west, which was the scene of most of the adventures of the two Dicks and Handsome Harry, their game old red-headed pard from Siskiyou County, California. That these novels were founded on facts, has been brought to my attention more than once, when, in reading one of the stories, some well-known incident of history, would suddenly pop up, and the "old veteran of the son of his dad" would be filling some of our well known historical character's shoes, and wearing them in a manner worthy of mention.

The first time I noticed this, in particular, was when I read No. 10--Diamond Dick, Jr.'s Ride for Life; or, The Hoboes of Hummerwell. The fine pictures on the front cover, showed Bertie in his famous ride for life, from the hoboies; riding his horse at breakneck speed down a stone stairway, with the hoboies at the top astride their horses, not daring to follow him,



but firing their pistols at him, all the while. Now, many a time have I seen this same picture, but the leading character was not Diamond Dick, Jr.. This picture was used years ago on a calendar advertising Putnam's Dyes, and instead of Bertie making that thrilling ride, it was General Israel Putnam (Old Put, himself) making his famous escape from the British. This is a well-known historical episode, and one every American boy should know about. As you see, Bertie had stepped in the boots of one of our most famous characters in early American history, for a few moments, and the author, H. B. Lawson, had woven a fine tale around this well-known incident of history.

About Feb. 1st of this year, our well-known friend and publisher of the Dime Novel Roundup, Mr. Ralph Cummings, was kind enough to send me a couple of issues of the earlier Diamond Dicks. One was No. 60, Diamond Dick, Jr. at the Old Ranch; or - Queer customers for Boarders, and was a number I had never seen before. The front cover illustration showed Bertie, standing with levelled revolvers at an old tough looking pair - a man, and a woman, who is his wife. Just back of them on the floor, where she had fallen in the fracas, lay the daughter of the worthy pair, who, at that time were trying to take the young sport's life in a very spectacular manner; the woman with a wicked-looking knife, and the man, with an axe.

These people were named Normans, but when I read the story and came to that part just previous to the scene of the picture, where it told how they were trying to seat Bertie at the breakfast table, with the back of his head near a canvas curtain stretched across the room, so that the old man could slip up behind the canvas and hit him in the back of the head with the axe; I immediately recognized the notorious Bender family in one of their murderous settings. It was in the 1880's, I believe, that they ran a sort of tavern along the highway, near Independence, Kansas, and killed unsuspecting travellers in the same way, they had attempted to murder the son-



MEMORIAM- MR. ERNEST W. CUMMINGS,

Father of Ye Editor-Ralph F. Cummings, died at his home, Sunday afternoon, at 6.30 P.M., on the 4th of April, 1937. He had been in ill health since he had the flu way back in 1918. May his soul rest in peace, and may his cares and troubles be over, now that he is happy in Heaven, with our dear Lord.

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NOVEL NEWS.

Professor Johannsen received much newspaper publicity on his forthcoming bibliography of Dime Novels.

Bert Couch, the frisky Frisco collector, put up a swell display of dime novels, in the Shell Oil skyscraper in Golden City, which stopped traffic.

Charley Austin is recovering from eye trouble, for which-three cheers. Charley can find more dime novels with one eye, than most of the boys can, with two.

Bill Burns is a busy lad, these days, but still finds time to work actively for the hobby, and for his friends.

Bill gets 100% enjoyment out of dime novels, and there is no more active worker in the game.

Eddie Leithead, the Buffalo Bill expert, still on the trail to complete his sets of Buffalo Bill and Nick Carter, and when he finishes the job, you can bet he'll have something to brag about !

Ralph Adimari is still collecting dime novel data, and is the "top" man in the hobby, for same. His serious work will some day receive its just appreciation.

Glenn H. Henderson, 235 N. Dithridge St., Pittsburg, Pa., often recalls the old days, when he used to read Frank Merriwell-Diamond Dick-and others. He says the old-timers were clean, and taught a good lesson that right is might, and it is with a sense of regret, of the time of their passing. "Why not be a youngster once more, Glenn ? )

## News of the Month (Continued)

Wm. (Bill) Brown was the real writer of the Dick Dobbins Detective Weekly.

James Madison keeps on the move, and is now at P.O.Box 124, Grand Central Annex, New York City.

We follow the suggestion of G. Fred Orphal, of Brooklyn, N.Y. to have dates on every page of the Roundup, as it is easy to lose inside pages and not know to which issue, they belong.

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## THIS IS A REPRINT

AND WE LIST THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISERS IN THE ORIGINAL ISSUE:

WM. M. KRELING.....San Francisco, California.  
THE BOOK FARM.....Hattiesburg, Mississippi.  
BRAGIN.....Brooklyn, York.  
J.P.GUINON .....Little Rock, Ark.  
DIAMOND DICK .....Norfolk, Neb.  
ROBERT H. SMELTZER.....Philadelphia, Pa.  
RALPH F. CUMMINGS.....Fisherville, Mass.

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## HIGH IDEALS.

The late GEORGE CHARLES JENKS, author of the Diamond Dick stories, left \$300.00, on his death in Auburn. In his youth, Mr. Jenks wanted to be a great writer, but necessity compelled him to write "potboilers". He said one day, in Auburn:

"I have seen many a bright young fellow start out with the determination to write masterpieces, like Poe's or Fenimore Cooper's, and wind up as a best seller, a panderer to the vulgarest tastes of the vulgarest people.

If you don't live up to your ideals,  
they'll come down ! "

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